



**Department of Justice**  
**U.S. Attorney's Office**  
**Southern District of Texas**

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**FORMER HICO CHIEF OF POLICE CONVICTED OF  
ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES**

HOUSTON, TX – Charles A. Malouff, Jr., 49, of Austin, Texas, and the former Chief of Police in Hico, Texas, was convicted of illegally transferring explosive devices after pleading guilty to the federal offense before United States District Judge David Hittner, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today. Hico is located approximately 70 miles northwest of Waco.

Malouff pleaded guilty to the felony offense in federal court this morning. He now faces a maximum punishment of 10 years in federal prison without parole and a \$10,000 fine at sentencing, which is set for October 25, 2006. Malouff has been permitted to remain free on bond pending his sentencing hearing.

The investigation leading to the arrest of Malouff began after 78 explosive destructive devices, commonly known as stun grenades, were discovered illegally stored in an office located at 1603 Ash Meadow, Houston, Texas on August 31 and September 1, 2004, by agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Further investigation conducted by the ATF agents tracing the acquisition of the devices ultimately led to a police officer identified as Charles A. Malouff, Jr. Under federal law, the transfer and possession of stun grenades must be approved by the federal government.

When contacted by the ATF, Malouff admitted that in October 2002, after he had been terminated as a police officer with the Bertram Police Department, he took stun grenades that belonged to that department and brought them to Houston, Texas, where he illegally transferred them into the possession of another individual. Malouff also admitted that in August 2003, while employed by the Bosque County Sheriff's Office, he removed additional stun grenades that belonged to that office and illegally transferred them into the possession of the same individual. These transfers by Charles A. Malouff, Jr. were not reported to or approved by the federal government.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James T. Kitchen. The investigation continues.

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